



# ZACH KLEIN

## COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein Recommends Crack Down on Large Gatherings**

*After repeated warnings, continued parties require further action to stop spread of coronavirus*

**COLUMBUS** — Today, Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced that his office updated its guidance to Columbus Police regarding house parties after repeated warnings have gone unheeded.

**“To stop more reckless and selfish conduct, I’m recommending that CPD issue citations to any individuals who defy the state’s order prohibiting large gatherings,”** said City Attorney Klein. **“Our officers have been called to the University District, short-term rentals and other gatherings too often and warnings are no longer enough. To address this community-wide health emergency, we need community-wide compliance.”**

Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton recently issued an order requiring all Ohioans stay in their homes to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 through May 1. Among other things, this order prohibits holding gatherings of any size. When outside of their residence, people must engage in social distancing, except for with family or household members. Any gathering of 10 or more people is prohibited, unless an exemption is noted.

To better enforce the state’s orders, the City Attorney’s Office has advised CPD to charge relative to these large residential parties without giving a warning, which was the department’s previous policy. Those found in violation of the order will be charged with a second-degree misdemeanor, per Section 3701.352 of the Ohio Revised Code. This guidance will impact off-campus house parties, gatherings at short-term rental properties and any other large gathering not exempted by the order.

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